UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.9/1991/L.3/Add.2
1 March 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

POPULATION COMMISSION
Twenty-sixth session
27 February-8 March 1991
Agenda item 8

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Jerzy Z. HOLZER (Poland)

Chapter IV. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

1. The Population Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 446th, 447th and 448th meetings on 28 February and 1 March 1991. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on progress of work in the field of population, 1989-1990: Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (E/CN.9/1991/3);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on progress of work in the field of population, 1989-1990: Department of Technical Cooperation for Development (E/CN.9/1991/3/Add.1);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed programme of work in the field of population for the biennium 1992-1993 (E/CN.9/1991/4);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on requirements for population specialists in national institutions and international organizations (E/CN.9/1991/5).

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2. The summary reports and recommendations of the following meetings were made available to the Commission: Expert Group Meeting on International Migration Policies and the Status of Female Migrants, San Miniato, Italy, 27-30 March 1990 (ESA/P/WP.111); Expert Group Meeting on Population Growth and Policies in Mega-cities, Tokyo, 22-26 October 1990 (ESA/P/WP.112); International Conference on the Aging Family, Kitakyushu, 15-19 October 1990 (ESA/P/WP.113); Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Population Information Network (POPIN), New York, 11-14 June 1990 (ESA/P/WP.115); and Symposium on Integrating Population Variables into Development Planning, Riga, 4-8 December 1989 (ESA/P/WP.117). Also made available to the Commission was a report entitled "The global Population Information Network (POPIN): historical perspective and recommendations for the future" (ESA/P/WP.116) and the report of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Working Group on Demographic Estimates and Projections of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, New York, 6 to 8 June 1990 (ACC/1990/PG/4).

3. In its general debate on programme questions, the Commission was provided with information concerning the new structural organization of the population programme within the 1992-1997 medium-term plan and the use of new categories to classify and report outputs. The Commission was also notified that work had already begun in preparation for an international meeting on population, in order to prepare document E/1991/5. This included initial planning of preparatory expert group meetings to be organized, subject to the approval of the Commission acting as Preparatory Committee (see document E/CONF.84/PC/2).

A. Programme performance and implementation

1. Analysis of demographic variables at world level

4. The Commission noted with satisfaction the publication of the Step-by-Step Guide to the Estimation of Child Mortality 1/ and its growing use in developing countries. Delegates commended the preparation of computer programs on diskette to facilitate the dissemination and use of estimation techniques. They noted that the methods described in manuals prepared by the Population Division had contributed to improving the demographic estimates used in development planning.

5. The Commission was informed that a study entitled Child Mortality in Developing Countries: Socio-economic Differentials, Trends and Implications, 2/ had been completed and that two other studies focusing on child mortality were under way: one on the impact of changes in reproductive behaviour on child survival and another documenting the pace of mortality change since 1960. The Commission endorsed such activities and added that trends and patterns of adult mortality deserved more attention. In particular, a study of mortality at older ages, including trends in causes of death, was suggested.

6. The Commission took note of the progress made in organizing the Expert Group Meeting on the feminization of internal migration and of the completion of a project on the estimation of demographic components of urban growth. Estimates of rural-to-urban migration by sex resulting from that project were being used to prepare a paper for the Meeting dealing with female internal migration. While

endorsing that activity, the Commission noted that more attention should also be given to the study of other demographic, economic and social aspects of internal migration.

7. The Commission was informed that a database on urban structure, by city size, on the basis of census information had been completed for all Latin American countries. In addition, the expansion and computerization of the data bank on international migration had continued. As suggested by some delegates, the data bank was being used to explore different aspects of international migration as, for instance, trends in South-to-North migration. The Commission was pleased to learn that a paper on that topic had been prepared and would be published in a forthcoming issue of the Population Bulletin of the United Nations.

8. The Commission endorsed the activities carried out in the area of international migration, including the publication of the chart entitled World Migrant Populations: The Foreign-born 3/ and the Expert Group Meeting on International Migration Policies and the Status of Female Migrants. Delegates emphasized the growing importance of international migration world wide and the need for reliable information on levels and trends of international migration. Continued cooperation between the Population Division and other international organizations working in the field of migration was welcomed. Consideration of the interplay between population growth, labour needs, economic development and international migration was suggested. The need to focus on refugees and other forced migration movements, an issue of particular importance for developing countries, was emphasized.

9. The Commission was informed that the project on adolescent fertility was completed in 1989 with the publication of the study entitled Adolescent Reproductive Behaviour: Evidence from Developing Countries. 4/ The study was actually the second part of the project. The first part, which was devoted to developed countries, was published in 1988. By-products included an extensive bibliography published as a working paper and also on microfiche. The study dealt with fertility levels and trends in the ages of adolescence, sexual activity, contraceptive practice, pregnancy and abortion, and the health consequences of early child-bearing. The project was carried out with the collaboration of the United Nations Statistical Office, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), and with the financial support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

10. In the area of family planning and its demographic impact, the study on Levels and Trends of Contraceptive Use as Assessed in 1988 5/ was also published in 1989. It presented information on contraceptive use by type of method for all countries for which information was available. The report also gave estimates of the increase in contraceptive practice that would be needed to produce the decline in fertility as implied in the United Nations projections. With financial support from UNFPA, the data included in the report had since been entered in a family planning data bank, which would be made available in machine-readable form.

11. It was noted that the papers of the Expert Group Meeting on Measuring the Dynamics of Contraceptive Use, held in December 1988, had been published under the

title Measuring the Dynamics of Contraceptive Use: Proceedings of the United Nations Expert Group, New York, 5-7 December 1989 (ST/ESA/SER.R/106). Follow-up activities to that project included preparation of software to facilitate application of the techniques discussed in the publication.

12. The Population Division had also completed a study on patterns of marriage among women and men in different parts of the world with the recent publication of the volume entitled Patterns of First Marriage: Timing and Prevalence (ST/ESA/SER.R/111), which provided a global review of the socio-cultural factors involved. The publication was the second part of the study on first marriage carried out by the Population Division.

13. Also concluded during the biennium 1988-1989 was a study on the impact of differentials in socio-economic factors on fertility levels in 32 developing countries. The findings were published in 1990 in an article entitled "Correlates of fertility in selected developing countries" in the Population Bulletin of the United Nations, No. 28. 6/

14. The Commission was informed that a number of studies in the general area of the condition of women and population dynamics, with focus on fertility, were in progress. In one study, an analysis was undertaken of women's marital and economic status in relation to living arrangements of the women and their children. Work was also under way on a study of the changing relationships between fertility and women's education and labour force participation in developing countries. The project included a few country case studies focusing on fertility in relation to aspects of women's status, such as channels through which education might affect fertility and how events in women's life course might affect fertility transition. Two studies, on India and Mexico, respectively, were currently being carried out.

15. In the area of interrelations between fertility and mortality, work was in progress, with UNFPA support, on a small number of country case studies dealing with the implications of improved child survival for fertility. The methodological framework for the project was developed with the help of a group of experts. The case studies pertained to Ecuador, Indonesia and an African country.

16. It was also to be noted that the Population Division is currently undertaking a study of fertility behaviour in low-fertility settings, namely, the developed countries and the low-fertility countries of Eastern Asia. The study covered the patterns of decline, changes in age-patterns of fertility and in age-parity timing and, through comparative analysis, changes in the determinants of fertility as well.

2. World population projections

17. The Commission expressed great satisfaction that the 1990 revision of the twelfth round of global estimates and projections of populations had been completed and that the results had been published in the United Nations World Population Chart 1990, 7/ World Population Prospects 1990 8/ and The Sex and Age Distributions of Populations: The 1990 Revision. 9/ Prior to publication, the results were disseminated in the form of computer output and on magnetic media. The Commission

noted that for the first time the revision contained a description of data sources and of demographic methods used for each country, and that a comparison with the 1988 revision was included. The Commission was informed that the 1992 round of revision was under way.

18. The Commission expressed pleasure with the completion of the 1990 revision of global estimates and projections of urban and rural populations and populations of large urban agglomerations with 1 million inhabitants and over. It noted that the results had already been made available to users and that it was particularly pleased with the publication, for the first time, of the United Nations Urban Agglomeration Chart 1990. 10/ It was informed that the publication World Urbanization Prospects 1990 11/ would become available around mid-1991.

19. The Commission noted with pleasure that the results of the 1990 revision were more readily available to users with the addition of timely new wall charts and microcomputer diskettes as well as through ad hoc information services. The publication was noted of an improved version of the United Nations Population Projection Computer Program (ST/ESA/SER.R/92).

20. The Commission noted the publication in 1989 of Review of Recent National Demographic Target-Setting. 12/

21. The Commission was pleased to be informed that the manuscript on subnational population projections was now undergoing final editing. The publication had been recast to concentrate on the most difficult problem facing those who wish to undertake subnational population projections; that is, the estimation of baseline migration, by sex and age, for subnational areas.

22. The Commission was informed that a new revision of the long-range projections of population was currently under way. It discussed the pros and cons of such long-range projections within the context of other supplementary projections that might be useful.

23. The Commission regretted that lack of resources had not allowed the resumption of estimates and projections of households and families, but took note of related work in this area within other subprogrammes and by the Statistical Office.

3. Population policy and socio-economic development

24. The Commission noted with satisfaction that, in the important area of population policy, a great deal of research and work had been completed during the last few years. This work encompassed (a) comparative studies of new population policy issues at the global level; (b) national population policies; and (c) the population policy data bank.

25. Concerning the comparative studies, the Commission was informed that research had continued on policy issues resulting from rapid population growth of the largest metropolitan areas in developing countries. During the past two years, mega-city studies had been issued for Jakarta, Cairo and Mexico City, bringing the total number of mega-city reports issued to 12.

26. In addition, the Commission was pleased to note that the Population Division, in cooperation with the United Nations University, had organized the Symposium on Mega-Cities and the Future: Population Growth and Policy Responses, which was held in Tokyo in October 1990.

27. Regarding national population policies, the Commission noted with satisfaction that the three-volume series, World Population Policies, 13/ had been completed and a professional journal for librarians had included it in its 1990 list of Outstanding Academic Books. Additional attention to the experiences of countries in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of population policies was the focus of the series entitled Case Studies in Population Policy, the most recent of which were on France (ST/ESA/SER.R/94) and Haiti (ST/ESA/SER.R/95).

28. The Commission was also informed that in April 1989, the Expert Group Meeting on Population and Human Rights was organized by the Population Division in collaboration with the Centre for Human Rights of the United Nations Office at Geneva.

29. The Commission was informed that a project on the status of women and population policies, with a focus on policies relating to reproductive health, was initiated in 1990 with the financial support of UNFPA.

30. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the population policy data bank had been expanded and considerably strengthened since its twenty-fifth session. It was informed that the second edition of the report and computer diskette entitled Global Population Policy Database (ST/ESA/SER.R/99), was issued in 1990.

31. The Commission was also informed that the Results of the Sixth United Nations Population Inquiry among Governments (ST/ESA/SER.R/104) had been published.

32. The Commission was pleased to note that the report, recommendations and papers of the 1988 Expert Group Meeting on the International Transmission of Population Policy Experience, which was organized jointly by the Population Division and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), had been published recently in a volume entitled International Transmission of Population Policy Experience (ST/ESA/SER.R/108), which was now being widely distributed. In response to a recommendation of that Meeting, the Population Division had recently issued a publication entitled Trends in Population Policy, 14/ which for the first time provided longitudinal national policy data for 170 countries for seven points in time over the period 1974-1989.

33. The Commission was informed that two publications had been produced as a follow-up of the project on socio-economic development and fertility decline. The Commission was also informed that the reports of case studies on the socio-economic consequences of population aging in Argentina, Morocco and the State of Kerala (India) had been completed and had been submitted for publication.

34. The Commission noted that a new edition of Stable Age Distributions Corresponding to the New United Nations Model Life Tables for Developing Countries (ST/ESA/SER.R/98) had been published. The Commission suggested that it would be

useful to learn of the impact that the dissemination of such methods had on the planning process. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the Population Division had upgraded the MORTPAK and MORTPAK-LITE software packages, making them more useful for planning by including a model for making single-year projections. It noted that MORTPAK-LITE had an improved user interface. It also noted that a revised manual for the upgraded versions of MORTPAK and MORTPAK-LITE had been published. 15/

35. Recognizing the interrelated nature of trends in family structure and trends in the aging of populations, the Commission expressed its satisfaction that the Population Division, with the support of the municipal government of Kitakyushu, Japan, had organized an International Conference on Aging Populations in the Context of the Family. The Commission stressed the importance of considering family issues when analysing the impact of demographic trends, including aging.

36. The Commission noted with satisfaction that volume I of the manual entitled Projection Methods for Integrating Population Variables into Development Planning had been prepared in three modules (ST/ESA/SER.R/90 and Add.1 and 2), the first two of which had been published. The third module was in press. The Commission stressed the importance of expediting the finalization and publication of volume II of the manual dealing with sectoral planning.

37. The Commission noted that reports on experiences of integrating population variables into development planning in India, Mexico, Thailand and Turkey had been finalized for publication.

38. The Commission was informed that with the financial support of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Population Division, in collaboration with the Population Branch of the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, the Latvian State University and the Programme in Population and Development Planning in Moscow State University, organized an International Symposium on Population and Development Planning, which was held at Riga in 1989.

39. The Commission noted that the Population Division had prepared and disseminated in diskette form version 1.0 of a microcomputer-oriented database on population, resources, environment and development called the PRED BANK. The database included demographic and economic variables and could be used with several widely available software packages. The user's manual was contained in an accompanying diskette.

4. Monitoring, review and appraisal, coordination and dissemination of population information

40. The monitoring of world population trends and policies and review and appraisal of progress made towards the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action are discussed in chapter II.

41. The Population Commission was pleased to be informed that the Population Division and the WHO Global Programme on AIDS had jointly organized a workshop on

modelling the demographic impact of AIDS in pattern II countries: that is, countries where most cases of AIDS occur through heterosexual transmission and through mother-to-infant transmission. Among the purposes of the Workshop were to examine the differences among various modelling approaches and learn to what extent such modelling exercises could provide useful information on the pandemic's potential medium- and long-term demographic effects. Among the findings were that (a) a projected demographic impact depended mainly on assumed rates of ineffectivity and patterns of sexual behaviour, the two variables about which there had been least knowledge; and (b) a general demographic impact at the national level might not be as great as hypothesized, although possibly very extensive in certain capital cities or other urban areas where infection was pervasive. The proceedings of the Workshop were in press and would be issued before the end of 1991. The Commission was pleased to learn the Population Division was initiating a new project on national AIDS policies. The Commission noted that such work was important for the biennial revision of global population estimates and projections.

42. The Population Commission noted with satisfaction that in the overall dissemination programme of the Population Division, 33 major publications were issued during the biennium 1989-1990, including four issues of the Population Bulletin and of the Population Newsletter. Three wall charts, which appeared to be a useful format for bringing population information to wide audiences quickly and at a comparatively low cost, had been published. It was reported that the demand for the publications remained strong, that there had been an overall reduction in publication time and that changes in appearance and format of some series had made the publications more attractive to a wider audience. Also, more of the Population Division's outputs had been made available in a computer-usable format. As an effort to enhance dissemination, the standard practice of issuing a press release upon the issue of a new publication had been adopted.

43. The Commission was pleased to learn that during the past two years, the substantive activities of the global Population Information Network (POPIN) continued to be carried out at a comparatively routine (low) level. The activities included: an exhibit of population information resources at the 1989 General Conference of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) in New Delhi; organization and servicing of the POPIN Working Group on the Management of the POPIN Thesaurus in late 1989, under the leadership of the Committee for International Cooperation in National Research in Demography (CICRED); organization and servicing of the global POPIN Coordinating Committee Meeting to take place in New York in mid-1990; participation in the POPIN-Africa Advisory Committee meeting in Accra in 1990 and in the International Seminar on Population Information convened by the China Population Information and Research Centre in Beijing in 1990. An overall review of POPIN activities was prepared by a consultant and made available to the Commission in working paper ESA/P/WP.116.

44. With respect to the management of global POPIN, as a result of further review of the POPIN project, it was agreed between the Population Division and UNFPA that the responsibility for global POPIN would remain with the Population Division with the support of UNFPA.

5. Technical cooperation

45. The Commission was informed of the technical cooperation activities in population undertaken by the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development during 1988-1990 in the field of training in demography and population and development, evaluation and analysis of basic population data and population policy and development planning. The Commission expressed its support for those activities and noted with satisfaction that the development of national capabilities had remained the main objective of technical cooperation in those fields. In this regard, the Commission noted that a number of countries, particularly but by no means exclusively in the African region, stood to benefit a great deal from this work, since human resource development in the population field remained a key concern.

46. A focus on developing further expertise in the area of population and development was particularly recommended by the Commission, as was careful consideration of the nature of the training required and the capability of institutions to provide it prior to finalizing decisions on actual training venues.

47. The Commission noted that an increase in national expertise during the biennium had reduced the dependence on international experts in project implementation in developing countries. It also noted, however, a decline in the proportion of women in training programmes. While it therefore welcomed the increased emphasis placed on the further involvement of women in all population activities, it also urged Governments and the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development to continue to ensure women's equal access to all relevant professional opportunities, particularly in training. It was pointed out that while nominations of women candidates for short-term training activities had progressively increased, this had not happened with regard to long-term training, the reasons for which were unclear.

48. The Commission welcomed the increased emphasis by Governments on exchanging experiences and technical cooperation among developing countries in training. It noted the needs expressed by most Governments of developing countries for training of more population specialists to attend to the growing needs in population policy formulation and integration of population variables into development planning.

49. With respect to the report prepared on requirements for population specialists in national institutions, the Commission considered the study to have far-reaching significance and recommended that further in-depth research of that kind should be undertaken, if possible. Such a study should include a larger number of countries, a broader scope of inquiry and, in particular, some focus on the question of how many population specialists were actually continuing to work in their areas of training. This would cast new light on the continuing problem of "brain drain" and also help to quantify just how well self-reliance in this area has developed.

50. The Commission noted with satisfaction the collaboration between the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, Governments and national institutions in giving short-term specialized training to nationals of developing countries.

51. The Commission expressed support for the increasing use made of national consultants and experts in the analysis of population and census data and the dissemination of the results through pre- and post-census seminars and publication of reports. The Commission noted the extensive use made of microcomputers in census analysis for which a large number of software packages had continued to be distributed through the Department's software development project.

52. The Commission noted that many developing countries had formulated population policies and developed programmes to integrate population variables into development planning. The Commission was informed of the extensive use made of techniques developed by the United Nations for integrating population factors into development planning. It noted in this regard that the Department had developed an integrated macro-simulation model for population policy formulation and integrating population factors into development, and a women-in-development model to analyse the impact of women's productive role in socio-economic development. The Commission was informed that the Department had organized training seminars in a number of developing countries on application of these models. The Commission urged the Department to increase its efforts in this area, to include demographic impacts on the environment and the use of microcomputer technology to model population and development planning as well as women in development interrelationships.

53. The Commission was informed that the Department had published a report on the in-depth analysis of United Nations fellowships and another report on the Consultative Meeting on Substantive Issues of Demographic Training in its programme of analysis and evaluation of experiences in technical cooperation in demographic training and research. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the quality of the technical assistance provided to the developing countries, and the Department was urged to continue its excellent cooperation in this regard with Governments and national institutions.

54. The Commission was also advised that the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development continues to offer cooperation to UNFPA in providing the services of technical advisers for UNFPA's Basic Needs Assessment missions as well as in project formulations and evaluations.

6. Demographic and social statistics

55. The Commission was informed of the work of the Statistical Office of the Secretariat in demographic and social statistics, covering three major components: (a) population census preparations and methodological developments; (b) international data collection, compilation and dissemination; and (c) technical cooperation activities. It expressed satisfaction with the extensive census preparations (such as regional workshops) and publications for assistance to countries. Recent publications included Supplementary Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses; Manual on Population Census Data Processing Using Microcomputers; and the Handbook of Vital Statistics Systems and Methods. The Commission was informed that 128 countries had already conducted a population census within the 1990 round of censuses and 50 more countries plan to hold a census in 1991.

56. The Commission noted with satisfaction that the publications of the annual Demographic Yearbook and of the quarterly Population and Vital Statistics Report had continued on a regular basis and had included, as special topics, households and families, and international migration. It was informed of the three-year project funded by UNFPA to develop a Demographic Yearbook database and to bring out a special supplement on population aging.

57. Work in social statistics included, inter alia, a wall chart on early child development and learning achievement, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), WHO and UNESCO, in the context of the World Summit for Children held in September 1990; another wall chart on the situation of women in 1990 and the first issue of the Disability Statistics Compendium.

58. In the area of technical cooperation, the Statistical Office had provided substantive support to about 180 projects executed by the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development over the past five years in the areas of population and housing censuses and surveys, civil registration and vital statistics, special population groups, women etc. Most of those projects had been funded by UNFPA. The Commission welcomed the International Programme for Accelerating the Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems which was designed to encourage countries to undertake actions to remove the constraints and problems that impeded the development of the national civil registration and vital statistics systems.

59. The Commission welcomed the preparation of population and housing census handbooks and other reports and urged that they be published well in advance of the next census round and distributed widely to countries. The Commission noted with pleasure the close collaboration among the various offices of the United Nations system, in particular, between the Statistical Office and the Population Division in the area of demographic and social statistics.

Notes

1/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.XIII.9.

2/ United Nations publication, forthcoming.

3/ United Nations publication, Sales. No. E.89.XIII.70.

4/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.XIII.10.

5/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.XIII.4.

6/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.90.XIII.3.

7/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.90.XIII.4/Rev.

8/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.XIII.4.

9/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.90.XIII.33.

Notes (continued)

10/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.90.XIII.6.

11/ United Nations publication, forthcoming.

12/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.XIII.5.

13/ United Nations publication, Sales Nos. E.87.XIII.4, E.89.XIII.3 and E.90.XIII.2.

14/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.XIII.13.

15/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.90.XIII.7.

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Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.9/1991/L.3/Add.3
1 March 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Jerzy Z. HOLZER (Poland)

Chapter IV. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

B. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993

1. Analysis of demographic variables at world level

1. The Commission was informed that the study on the impact of changes in reproductive behaviour on child survival had been initiated and was expected to be completed during the biennium 1992-1993. A study on the relationship between the status of women and child survival would also be undertaken during that period, provided sufficient resources became available.

2. With respect to internal migration and urbanization, the Commission was pleased to learn that the Proceedings of the Expert Group Meeting on the Feminization of Internal Migration, scheduled to take place in October 1991, would be published during the biennium. In addition, a manual on methods to measure internal migration would be published, provided extrabudgetary resources could be secured.

3. The Commission was also pleased to learn that the expansion and computerization of the data bank on international migration would continue. Given the increasing importance of forced migration, the Commission supported a proposed project focusing on refugees, displaced persons and other forced population movements.

4. The Commission noted that for the 1992-1993 biennium, work in the areas of women's status in relation to fertility would include the completion of several comparative and country case studies. The project on the impact of improvements of child survival on fertility was expected to be completed during the biennium.

5. The Commission was pleased to learn of plans for further studies in the area of fertility and family planning. An updated review of patterns of contraceptive use world wide is planned. The data underlying the publication would be made available on diskette. Contingent on extrabudgetary resources, studies of contraceptive use in relation to breast-feeding and of patterns and trends of birth-spacing would be initiated during the biennium. In addition, the Division planned to begin work towards a comprehensive global review of trends in the level and age pattern of fertility.

2. World population projections

6. Emphasizing the great demand for recurrent updating of the global estimates and projections of populations, the Commission recommended that preparation of estimates and projections of populations by country, urban and rural populations and urban agglomerations be continued with the same two-year periodicity.

7. The Commission was pleased to note that the 1992 revision would provide age and sex distributions and demographic indicators for countries with 200,000 inhabitants and more, that the new base date would be 1990, and that the projection range for urban agglomerations would be extended to 2010. Noting that the year 2025 was now only 35 years away, the Commission recommended that future projections extend the horizon to 2050, starting with the 1994 revision.

8. The Commission suggested that, in addition to its regular set of projections, the Population Division consider supplementary illustrative projections, such as different mortality assumptions, instant replacement-level fertility assumptions, or long-range projections.

9. Recognizing the importance and the complexity of urban-rural projections, the Commission requested the Population Division to explore the possibility of presenting results according to sex and age.

10. The Commission urged that efforts be made to obtain resources to allow the development of a user-friendly interface for the United Nations Population Projection Program (ABACUS), and also to further expand widespread dissemination of results from estimates and projections published by the Population Division.

11. The Commission emphasized the importance of updating the joint publication on population and sectoral estimates and projections undertaken by the Population Division, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). It strongly recommended that work of the ACC Ad Hoc Inter-agency Working Group continue in that direction.

3. Population policy and socio-economic development

12. The Commission was informed that with regard to comparative studies, work on the series Population Growth and Policies in Mega-Cities would be continued, and that reports on Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires were planned. In addition to the series on mega-cities, a project funded by UNFPA would look at the demographic and policy aspects relating to approximately 100 of the world's largest urban agglomerations. The compiled data and report from the project were expected to provide useful information to planners and policy makers on the various policy interventions that had been undertaken at the national and local levels.

13. The Commission noted with satisfaction that beginning in 1990, with the financial support of UNFPA, a project was begun on the status of women and population policies, focusing on policies relating to reproductive health. The project aimed to investigate national population policies relating to abortion, contraception, sterilization and maternal health.

14. The Commission was informed that international migration policies was another area expected to receive attention in the coming biennium. Building on the Population Division's 1982 review of international migration policies, the Population Division intended to prepare individual country summaries describing the important dimensions of international migration policies, including those relating to immigration, emigration, family reunification, labour migration, return migration, refugees and asylum-seekers.

15. The Commission was also informed that another project planned for the next biennium was a study of mortality policies, with a special focus on national policies on acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). A report succinctly summarizing national population policies addressing that serious health threat would benefit from the cooperation of the World Health Organization (WHO) and information obtained from the Sixth United Nations Population Inquiry, as well as more recent national documents, articles and newspaper clippings.

16. The Commission was also informed of two additional activities, the Seventh United Nations Population Inquiry among Governments and the global population database. The Seventh Population Inquiry, was expected to be sent to Governments in early 1992. The third edition of the global policy database scheduled to be completed by the end of 1991 should be issued in 1992. The remarks provided by members of the Commission regarding their national population policy experiences would be very helpful in updating the population policy database. Every effort would be taken to ensure that reported population policies take into account the overall context of social and economic development policies.

17. The Commission encouraged further work on interrelations between population and development, development of techniques for utilizing demographic factors in the planning process and methods for dealing with interrelations between population, resources, environment and development. The Commission suggested that all appropriate means be employed to ensure that the findings of research studies reach policy makers and the public.

18. The Commission stressed the importance of continued analysis of the socio-economic implications of the aging of populations in both developed and developing countries. The Commission also stressed that in its further work on population aging, the Population Division should consider various alternative measures of the elderly population and its components.

19. The Commission recommended that, subject to the availability of resources, a database should be prepared on experiences in integrating population issues into development planning. Such a database should include information on institutional arrangements, training, research and the use of demographic data, planning models, methodologies and software.

20. The Commission recommended that (subject to the availability of resources) microcomputer-based software for making population-related projections for development planning be prepared and disseminated widely. The Commission also endorsed the organization of a workshop on that topic.

21. Noting that the microcomputer-oriented database on population, resources, environment and development could be most useful in analysing interrelationships between those variables, the Commission endorsed the preparation of an updated version containing variables relating to resources and the environment.

22. The Commission noted the need to review the state of knowledge on relationships between population, environment and development, and expressed approval of plans to organize an expert group meeting on that topic in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund and the German Foundation for International Development.

4. Monitoring, review and appraisal, coordination and dissemination of population information

23. The monitoring of world population trends and policies and review and appraisal of progress made towards the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action are discussed in chapter II.

24. With respect to activities in the area of dissemination of population information, the Population Commission was informed that the Population Division would continue to: (a) issue all recurrent and non-recurrent publications; (b) improve dissemination by developing better distribution lists to permit targetting of the most appropriate audience for each publication; (c) find a better balance in presentation in order to meet the needs of population professionals and also to reach the widest possible audiences; and (d) increase output in computer-usable format, both in the form of databases and of software.

25. With regard to global POPIN, the Population Division would work together with UNFPA to formalize an agreement on the management of POPIN. A meeting of the POPIN Advisory Committee would be convened during the first half of 1991 and, contingent upon the availability of extrabudgetary resources, full-scale POPIN activities would be resumed during the second half of 1991. A key feature of the activities would be an even closer working relationship with the regional POPIN programmes.

5. Technical cooperation

26. The Commission considered the proposed programme of work of the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development in the field of population for the biennium 1992-1993 (E/CN.9/1991/CRP.2), which was an elaboration of the activities to be carried out during the biennium 1992-1993 as stipulated in more general terms in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. Those activities included (a) support of technical cooperation projects in three main areas, namely, training, national research on population dynamics, and national population policy programmes and offices; and (b) analysis and evaluation of technical cooperation activities in population.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.9/1991/L.3/Add.4
1 March 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

POPULATION COMMISSION
Twenty-sixth session
27 February-8 March 1991
Agenda item 8

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Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Jerzy Z. HOLZER (Poland)

Chapter __. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Population Commission held its twenty-sixth session at United Nations Headquarters from 27 February to ___ March 1990. The Commission held ___ meetings (444th to _____).

2. The session was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs.

3. Introductory statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs, the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, the Officer-in-Charge of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the Director of the Population Division.

B. Attendance

4. The session was attended by 26 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for one non-member State also attended. Representatives of specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations also attended. A list of participants is given in annex I to the present report.

C. Election of officers

5. At its 444th and 445th meetings, on 27 February, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman: Charlotte Hoehn (Germany)

Vice-Chairmen: René Pereira Morato (Bolivia)
Abdel Salam El Banna (Egypt)
Shigemi Kono (Japan)

Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur: Jerzy Holzer (Poland)

D. Agenda

6. At its 444th meeting, on 27 February, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/CN.9/1991/1. The agenda was as follows:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Action by the United Nations to implement the recommendations of the World Population Conference, 1974:

   (a) General debate on national experience in population matters;

   (b) Monitoring of population trends and policies, with special emphasis on age structure.

4. The 1994 international meeting on population.

5. Programme questions:

   (a) Programme performance and implementation;

   (b) Proposed programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993.

6. Follow-up to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population, 1984.

7. Provisional agenda for the twenty-seventh session of the Commission.

8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-sixth session.

E. Consultation with non-governmental organizations

7. In accordance with rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council made statements in connection with agenda item 6 (Follow-up to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population, 1984):

Category II: International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, the Population Council

Roster: Committee for International Co-operation in National Research in Demography, Population Communications - International

Annex I

ATTENDANCE

Members*

Bangladesh: M. Mohsin, Iftekhar A. Chowdhury, Mahbub Kabir, Liaquat Ali Choudhury, Ahmed Akhtaruzzaman

Belgium: R. Cliquet

Bolivia: René Pereira Morato, Pablo Ossio Bustillos

Botswana: P. E. Legwaila, S. O. Outlule

Brazil: Mauro Sergio Couto, Regis Arslanian, Demétrio Carvalho

China: Chang Chongxuan, Wu Changping, Zhao Zhipei, Zhang Yang

Colombia: Ciro Martínez, Hernando Clavijo

Egypt: Abdel Salam El Banna, Somaya Saad

France: Léon Tabah, Frédéric Wormser, Michel Tantot

Germany: Charlotte Hoehn, Ursula Schäfer-Preuss

Iran (Islamic Republic of): Majid Jamshidi, Bozorgmehr Ziaran, Mahmoud Barimani

Japan: Shigemi Kono, Naoto Nikai

Mexico: José Luis Palma Cabrera, Arturo Hernández Basave, Adriana Aguilera

Nigeria: I. A. Gambari, K. O. Olisemeka, A. L. Sidi

Panama: Margarita Aquino

Poland: Jerzy Holzer, Ryszard Rysinski, Wojciech Ponikiewski

Rwanda: Chaste Abimana

Sweden: Ulla-Britt Lithell, Rolf Andréen, Lennarth Hjelmaker, Klas Molin

Togo: Kampatibe Nagbandja

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* Zambia was not represented at the session.

Turkey: Fikret Uçcan, Ugur Aytaç, Yalçin Tuncer, Cemil Ergene, Ergül Tunçbilek, Tuncer Kocaman, Selim Yenel

Uganda: Joseph Atiku

Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic: Irina V. Haynatskaya, Sergiy V. Kulyk

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: A. A. Isupov, O. G. Pavlov, Y. V. Oksamitniy

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: J. Craig

United States of America: Vincent P. Barbra, Nancy O'Neal Carter, Bruce Andrus, Richard Cornelius, John V. Hurley, Thomas McDevitt, C. Steven McGann

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Israel, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Italy, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Swaziland, Thailand, Tunisia, Venezuela, Yugoslavia

Non-member State represented by an observer

Holy See

United Nations Secretariat

Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (Population Division and Statistical Office), Department of Technical Cooperation for Development (Population Division), Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Europe, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

United Nations bodies

United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Population Fund, World Food Council

Specialized agencies

International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank

Intergovernmental organization

Organization of the Islamic Conference

Non-governmental organizations

Category I: International Chamber of Commerce, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Planned Parenthood Federation

Category II: International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, The Population Council, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations

Roster: Committee for International Co-operation in National Research in Demography, Population Communications - International

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UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.9/1991/L.3/Add.5
1 March 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

POPULATION COMMISSION
Twenty-sixth session
27 February-8 March 1991
Agenda item 8

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Chapter IV. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS (continued)

C. Activities of the regional commissions

1. The activities of the regional commissions were described in detail in working paper ESA/P/WP/118, which was made available to the Population Commission.

1. Economic Commission for Africa

2. The representative of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) informed the Commission about the emerging population issues in Africa. Stressing the variety of population dynamics characterizing Africa, he noted that member States in the continent had generally initiated or promoted population policies aimed at curbing population growth and at monitoring population movements. The difficulties in mastering problems related to population redistribution and other migration issues were underscored.

3. The Commission was informed that the ECA secretariat continued to implement its work programme on population, which included research, training, advisory services and information. As awareness of member States regarding population problems increased, it was likely that more requests would be made for advisory

services and assistance. The ECA representative indicated that preparatory work for the next African Population Conference was under way. The Conference would convene in 1992.

2. Economic Commission for Europe

4. The Commission was informed that the 1989-1990 population programme of the Economic Commission for Europe included four major activities: (a) the promotion of fertility and family surveys; (b) the collection, analysis and dissemination of information on population policies; (c) the study of population aging and its social and economic implications; and (d) the analysis of the time-use of women. Recently, a fifth activity relating to international migration was added to the programme.

5. With regard to the promotion of fertility and family surveys, the ECE was collaborating with a number of national demographic research centres. A core questionnaire for the surveys was undergoing a process of revision and, once adopted by participating countries, would be used to gather internationally comparable events and current status data on fertility, nuptiality and activity variables.

6. Aware of the significance being accorded by member countries to international migration, the ECE secretariat, in collaboration with UNFPA, was preparing an expert group meeting to review the main issues related to international migration in the major world regions. The meeting, which would take place at Geneva in July 1991, would provide a basis to initiate or strengthen policy-oriented research in international migration at the regional commissions.

3. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

7. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) prepared a written statement which was made available to the Population Commission in working paper ESA/P/WP/118.

4. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

8. During the period under review, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) undertook both recurrent and specific activities. Recurrent activities included rendering regional advisory services, the publication of the bi-annual ESCWA Population Bulletin, the maintenance of the Population Reference Centre, the organization of meetings with didactic and promotional purposes, and the production of demographic and related socio-economic indicators, which were being updated every other year. ESCWA conducted an in-depth review and assessment of the methodology used for the production of the above-mentioned indicators. Regarding specific activities, ESCWA, among other things, carried out and published a study on levels, trends and socio-economic differentials of infant and child mortality in the region.

9. Owing to the present situation in the region, the programme of work for the biennium had not been completed. It was expected that in addition to undertaking recurrent activities, ESCWA would be involved in the analysis of population movements associated with the Gulf crisis. Those movements were not only substantial but had also social and economic consequences affecting, inter alia, individual and family welfare, employment and workers remittances. An understanding of those population movements and their consequences would be an essential prerequisite for the formulation of national plans and policies for reconstruction and development in the region.

5. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

10. The Commission was informed that the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) continued to focus its work on three broad areas: technical assistance, research, and information dissemination. Its regional advisers and professional staff provided technical assistance in, for example, the analysis of demographic and family planning surveys, the integration of population concerns into development planning, and assisting developing countries in establishing and strengthening their population information centres and related information systems. It also assisted countries by organizing training courses, workshops and study tours.

11. In order to help developing countries to evolve adequate strategies, policies and measures to overcome their various population problems, ESCAP conducted collaborative research on various issues, including demographic-economic interrelationships, the consequences of population change in Asia, urbanization and socio-economic development in the region, the accessibility of contraceptives and the means for improving management information systems in family planning. Because of the importance of population information, ESCAP continued to promote new and better techniques for handling, sharing and disseminating population information, especially through the Asia-Pacific Population Information Network. Two major means were used to disseminate information: publications, including bibliographic services; and meetings. Among the latter, population issues were discussed at the annual sessions of the Commission, the biennial session of the Committee on Population and Social Development and at other meetings. In 1992, ESCAP and UNFPA would jointly sponsor the decennial Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference at Jakarta, Indonesia, with the Government of Indonesia providing all host-country facilities.

D. Requirements for population specialists in national institutions and international organizations

12. The Commission was pleased to note that in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/93 of 26 July 1989, a report had been prepared on requirements for population specialists in national institutions and international organizations.

13. In regard to requirements and training of population specialists at the national level, the Commission was informed that since the data required for a study had to come from the countries themselves, a short, structured questionnaire had been prepared and mailed to 41 countries (members of and observers to the Population Commission and some developing countries that had requested assistance from the United Nations in building local infrastructure). Out of 41 countries, 21 had responded to the questionnaire.

14. Regarding the availability of population specialists currently working, the Commission took note of the fact that there was general dissatisfaction about the insufficient number of population specialists employed in the public and academic sectors in both the developed and developing countries studied.

15. With respect to vacancies, the Commission was informed that in countries that responded to the questionnaire, a total of 674 vacancies were identified, 301 in the public sector and 373 in the academic sector, thus indicating that there were 11 vacancies per 100 existing posts. It was also reported that a relatively higher proportion of vacancies were found in the developing countries (18 per cent of posts were vacant) than in the developed countries (3 per cent). The data indicated also a relatively higher proportion of vacancies in the academic sector (13 per cent) than in the public sector (10 per cent). The Commission was thus alerted to the serious implications of those statistics, the most important of which was that the provision of new generations of population specialists and other professionals with some knowledge of population might be seriously limited particularly in the group of developing countries where almost one third of academic posts were reported vacant.

16. The Commission was informed of the estimate that 3,190 new population specialists would be required during the next five years, 51 per cent in the public sector and the other 49 per cent in the academic sector; 35 per cent of the total in the developed countries and 65 per cent in developing countries.

17. With respect to the selection of population specialists from within the Organization, the Commission was informed that the filling of posts at the entry levels was primarily through either the internal competitive examination or the national competitive examination.

18. In regard to the recruitment and placement of technical co-operation expert personnel, the Commision was pleased to note that rules for technical advisory staff guaranteed a measure of autonomy with levels of remuneration appropriate for recruitment of competent personnel. The Commission was informed that a special category of personnel recruited were the associate experts. There were currently close to 100 associate experts, of all specializations, serving throughout the less developed regions. Recently, such experts had also been assigned to Headquarters.

UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.9/1991/L.3/Add.6
4 March 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

POPULATION COMMISSION
Twenty-sixth session
27 February-8 March 1991
Agenda item 8

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Jerzy Z. HOLZER (Poland)

Chapter IV. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS (continued)

E. Agency support costs and the organization of technical assistance activities

1. At various points during the Commission's deliberations, reference was made to possible changes in the overall framework for United Nations technical co-operation activities in all fields and to a new agency support cost system. Such changes might follow from the implementation of General Assemby resolution 44/211 and decision 90/26 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme. In principle, the larger aim of the new system under discussion, which would become effective in January 1992, was to enhance the substantive capabilities of institutions in developing countries through national execution at the country level of programmes in the area of population. The Commission was informed that discussions between the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and units of the United Nations directly concerned with technical co-operation activities in the field of population had not been completed; organizational questions remained to be resolved. Every effort would be made to ensure that whatever arrangements would emerge, the resource implication of such arrangements would not have a negative impact on the ability of the United Nations to deliver, qualitatively as well as quantitatively, the services which Member States rightly expected.

91-07244 2207e (E)

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.9/1991/L.3/Add.7
4 March 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

POPULATION COMMISSION
Twenty-sixth session
27 February-8 March 1991
Agenda item 8

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

Draft report

Rapporteur: Jerzy Z. HOLZER (Poland)

Chapter V. FOLLOW-UP TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION, 1984

1. The Population Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 448th and 449th meetings, on 1 March 1991. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Concise report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of world population trends and policies, with special emphasis on age structure (E/CN.9/1991/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on interrelationships between population and environment in rural areas of developing countries (E/CN.9/1991/6);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations system in the field of population (E/CN.9/1991/7);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of multilateral population assistance (E/CN.9/1991/8);

(e) Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the activities of the Fund (E/CN.9/1991/9);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the work of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action (E/CN.9/1991/10);

(g) The parts of the reports, including the decisions, of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on its thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh sessions (E/1989/32 and E/1990/29) dealing with the United Nations Population Fund.

A. Activities of the United Nations Population Fund

2. The representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) introduced the report of the Executive Director of the Fund on the Fund's activities. The Fund had conducted a review and assessment of the world's accumulated population experience in the past two decades and had convened the International Forum on Population in the twenty-first century. The Amsterdam Declaration, which emanated from the Forum, clarified key issues in the field of population, collectively set targets for the foreseeable future and estimated resource needs. The Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme took note of the unmet needs for population activities and urged all Governments, concerned international and regional organizations, financial institutions and non-governmental organizations to make every effort to reach the target of $9 billion by the year 2000. The report also highlighted the efforts of the Fund to mobilize resources for population matters, as reflected in General Assembly resolution 45/216 urging follow-up of the goals of the Amsterdam Declaration.

3. Within UNFPA, the period under review saw the introduction of Programme Review and Strategy Development exercises in selected countries. This operational innovation gave emphasis to substantive analysis of country conditions and strategic programming. It had been designed to assist Governments to develop and strengthen a national population programme and strategy, to become more self-reliant in formulation and implementation of population policies and to assist the Government, UNFPA and other donors in delineating programmes for population assistance. Other UNFPA activities involved intensification of the Fund's evaluation activities and the development of a comprehensive management information system.

4. The financial position of UNFPA had improved in recent years, with total income surpassing $363 million in 1988-1989 and being projected to $445 million for 1990-1991. Total expenditures were $203.5 million in 1989, with about $157.4 million for programme expenditures. The total number of authorized budget posts in UNFPA was 696 in 1990, comprising 169 Professional and 527 General Service staff. The proportion of women on the Professional staff exceeded 39.5 per cent.

5. The programme of work of UNFPA continued to emphasize family planning, which took up 46.3 per cent of total allocations in 1989. Information, education and communication activities received 16.8 per cent; basic data collection, 10.9 per cent; population dynamics, 12.5 per cent; and women, population and development, 3.1 per cent. UNFPA resources for programmes in women, population and development totalled $5.9 million in 1989, up from $1.9 million in 1988. Other special areas of UNFPA activity were youth, population, the aging, HIV/AIDS prevention and population and environment interrelationships.

B. Monitoring of multilateral population assistance

6. Complementing the report of the Executive Director of UNFPA was the report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of multilateral population assistance (E/CN.9/1991/8), which covered the period 1988-1989. It was stated in the report that total international assistance for population in 1989 amounted to $740.8 million. The share of the United Nations system in that amount was $194.9 million or about 32 per cent. Bilateral assistance made up $381.2 million or 62 per cent and private assistance and assistance from non-governmental organizations totalled $39.3 million or 6 per cent. Those figures did not include World Bank credits, which amounted to about $125.4 million.

7. Within the United Nations system, UNFPA accounted for 75.2 per cent of funds for population activities in 1989. Among the 15 United Nations organizations engaged in population work, the total funds allocated by UNFPA to their activities amounted to 59.1 per cent of their combined budgets. Geographically, assistance to activities in Africa had been steadily increasing since 1986; the proportion of UNFPA programme funds to that region had risen from 26.4 per cent to 29.6 per cent. Support for activities in Asia and the Pacific had declined from 51.7 per cent in 1986 to 43.2 per cent in 1989. Latin America and the Caribbean had also received an increasing proportion of funds (from 10.2 per cent to 15.7 per cent). The Middle East and Mediterranean region had steadily received about 11 per cent of UNFPA resources.

8. In terms of substantive areas, UNFPA had spent the bulk of its funds in 1989 (about 44.9 per cent) for family planning activities. In pursuance of the goals set in the Amsterdam Declaration (to increase contraceptive prevalence in developing countries from 51 per cent to 56 per cent; reduce infant mortality rates to at least below 50 per 1,000 live births; and to reduce maternal mortality by at least 50 per cent), the Fund encouraged official policies designed to achieve the goals for maternal and child health and family planning (MCH/FP), encouraged legislation, for instance to raise the age of marriage, provided incentives to contraceptive production and funded information, education and communication programmes.

9. In 1989-1990, UNFPA allocations to basic data collection and analysis had increased, especially in Asia, where the 1990 rounds of censuses had started. Considerable support was also given to improvement of vital registration systems, encouragement of survey capabilities and updating of population databases. In the field of population dynamics, about 133 institution-building, training and research operations were supported by UNFPA. Another 107 operations were funded in countries seeking to formulate or adopt population policies. The spread and dissemination of those policies and programmes were stressed in information, education and communication activities, which received considerable UNFPA assistance.

10. An important trend that had begun during the period under review was the increasing amount of funds earmarked for changing the preconditions leading to reduced fertility rather than direct investments in primarily fertility control activities. In the late 1980s, multilateral assistance agencies had started allocating further funds to programmes improving the literacy of women, education

of girls, income-generating projects for women and efforts to enhance the greater participation of women in activities that affected their lives. A trend towards increased social investment - in health, social welfare and other sectors - was also observed. At the same time, support for programmes seeking to improve the condition of youth, the aged, and under-served and underprivileged groups had been increasing. All those efforts seemed to suggest that fertility decline was amenable to change, not through direct family planning interventions alone but to more integrated solutions that directly linked population with developmental processes.

C. Activities of the United Nations system in the field of population

1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

11. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) informed the Commission that FAO was expanding its activities related to population matters.

12. High priority had been given to efforts to assist Governments in incorporating demographic variables into agricultural and rural development planning. A major activity in that area was the work of the FAO Policy Division in the application of Computer Assisted Population Planning in Agriculture (CAPPA), a software package designed to assist and train agricultural planners.

13. The Commission was informed that FAO was attaching great importance to supporting national population and rural development policies, mainly by incorporating population information, education and communication components into regular programme activities.

14. Action-oriented research had been undertaken to improve the capacity of FAO to provide policy-related advice to countries in population and rural development matters. Research on relationships between population and the environment in the context of sustainable agricultural and rural development had been given high priority.

2. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

15. The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) informed the Commission that population issues were commanding increasing priority in the work programmes of the organization. Thus, in the years to come, UNESCO would make use of its mandate, accumulated knowledge and expertise to (a) make an active contribution to the analysis of population issues and to the identification of the policy consequences of such analysis; (b) provide technical assistance to Governments in their efforts to gain access to information on population issues and use it in the formulation of development policies; and (c) contribute to the diffusion of knowledge on population issues so that individuals, couples and social groups might use it in their efforts to overcome poverty and improve their well-being.

16. UNESCO was in the process of organizing the International Congress on Population, Education and Development, to be held in 1992. The Congress, organized in collaboration with UNFPA, would prepare both a World Strategy and a Framework for Action in the Field of Population Education for the beginning of the twenty-first century, which would be submitted to the UNESCO General Conference at its twenty-seventh session, to be held in 1993. Those documents would be submitted by UNESCO and UNFPA to the 1994 international meeting on population. Their role in raising awareness of the contribution of education to the fields of population and development was stressed.

3. World Health Organization

17. The representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) noted that WHO had developed a broad concept of reproductive health including social, cultural, economic, technological and environment aspects. Increased emphasis was laid on safe motherhood, care of the newborn, women's health and development, adolescent health, development of family planning technology and improving the quality of maternal and family planning services. In the area of newborn care, WHO had initiated the development of appropriate technologies to treat and prevent complications.

18. Through the safe motherhood programme, WHO had supported a large number of epidemiological studies of maternal mortality and morbidity as well as operational research to promote safe motherhood.

19. In the area of adolescent health, WHO supported many studies to collect data on the sexual behaviour of young people, sexually transmitted diseases, fertility, age-specific abortion rates and maternal mortality. Young people had participated in those studies and in the development of strategies and action to solve problems and meet needs. Methods had been developed and applied for systematic intergovernmental planning.

20. In view of increasing concern about population growth, the Executive Board of WHO had adopted a resolution in 1989 to strengthen and promote family planning in primary health care.

21. Recently WHO had enlarged its Steering Committee on Women, Health and Development to include all WHO programme areas. That new development would further strengthen the variety of activities intended to strengthen women's leadership in health development.

D. Work of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action

22. The report of the Secretary-General on the work of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action (E/CN.9/1991/10) contained a review of activities carried out by nine intergovernmental and 83 non-governmental organizations.

23. The representative of the Population Council reported that the Council had ongoing operations in three areas: (a) biomedical research in the field of human reproduction to develop and improve contraceptive methods; (b) social and health science research into the causes of population change, its societal implications and appropriate policy responses; and (c) the provision of technical assistance to family planning and other population-related programmes in the developing world. In the area of research on human reproduction, 1990 had seen the approval by the Food and Drug Administration of the United States of America of the use of the new contraceptive NORPLANT among American women. The Council had performed a unique role in taking that product from the research and development stages to its introduction as an approved method of contraception. Mention was made of a study on the demographic impact of family planning programmes, in which it was concluded that the world population in 1990 would have been 412 million larger had there been no family planning programmes. Lastly, the Council's long-standing concern for the status of women was stressed.

24. The representative of Population Communications - International stressed the importance of the partnership between the community of non-governmental organizations, national Governments and the United Nations. The monthly publication of that organization, International Dateline, had contributed to that partnership by providing timely information on the activities on non-governmental organizations world wide.

25. The representative of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) noted that the Federation encompassed voluntary organizations in 134 countries, all devoted to ensuring that individuals and couples had the knowledge and means to determine the number and spacing of their children. Thus, the 1991-1993 Three-Year Plan of the Federation had established as priorities advocating family planning as a basic human right, promoting or improving the delivery of family planning services, improving the status of women, providing information and family planning services to young people, increasing the knowledge and practice of contraception among men, and developing the human resources necessary to provide adequate family planning services. In carrying out those activities, IPPF had co-operated with both UNFPA and WHO. Given its flexibility and adaptability, the Federation had been able to provide the necessary support to newly created family planning associations in Eastern European countries.

26. The representative of Turkey referred to the activities undertaken by the Turkish Family Health and Planning Foundation to improve maternal and child health in Turkey. With the support of the Foundation, 28 health and family planning clinics had been opened in different areas of the country. The Foundation was also involved in training necessary personnel and in raising awareness about population issues among both policy makers and the general public. A family planning campaign carried out in 1990 was reported to have been successful. Another one was planned for 1991.

27. The representative of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) noted the close collaboration that had traditionally existed between the Union and the Population Division of the Secretariat. With regard to the current activities of the Union, scientific committees or working groups were

reported to be active in such fields as the comparative analysis of fertility; adult mortality; population and health; economic demography; historical demography; anthropological demography; population and the environment; the status of women and population dynamics; and the use of microcomputers in the analysis of incomplete or deficient data. It was reported that three major conferences would be organized by the Union during the period 1990-1993: the European Conference (October 1991), the Conference on the Peopling of the Americas (May 1992) and the XXII General Conference of the Union (1993). The Union's publication programme continued to expand. Conference proceedings had been published, as had the IUSSP Newsletter/Bulletin de Liaison and a reprint series. The Union's collaboration with Oxford University Press had led to the publication of an international series in demography dealing with the latest scientific advances in the field and a new series aimed at a wider audience would begin soon. Lastly, the Union continued to support the expansion of research capabilities in developing countries, particularly in Africa, through a series of seminars and other training activities.

28. The representative of the Committee for International Co-operation in National Research in Demography (CICRED) informed the Commission that seven research projects were at various stages of implementation and two were planned to start soon. Among the former, two dealt with different aspects of international migration (its impact on third world development and on receiving countries, respectively), another focused on the social differentials of mortality in developed countries, a fourth dealt with the economic and social aspects of population aging, a fifth related to the integration of population in development planning, a sixth focused on urbanization and population distribution and the last dealt with the effects of family planning on demographic trends. Projects on population and the environment and on the effects of social organizations on the evolution of mortality were about to start. In addition to promoting those research activities, CICRED continued to coordinate the research carried out by some 350 centres world wide. In that connection, a regional inquiry on the research capabilities of the different centres was being undertaken. The inquiry would also try to ascertain the degree to which research findings were being used to inform policy makers. Lastly, CICRED continued to publish the Review of Reviews and had embarked on producing the third edition of POPIN Thesaurus: Population Multilingual Thesaurus.

E. Population and the environment

29. At its twenty-fifth session, the Population Commission had requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on population and the environment. The report of the Secretary-General prepared in response to that request (E/CN.9/1991/6) provided an overview of recent research findings on the impact of rapid population growth on the state of the environment in the rural areas of selected developing countries. Rural areas were selected for study because it was recognized that a majority of the population of developing countries resided in those areas and that in rural areas, the impact of population variables on the environment might be more direct.

30. The Commission was informed that, thus far, desertification and soil erosion had not had such an adverse effect on food production that world-wide average food consumption had dropped. But the population of certain regions had suffered profoundly from malnutrition owing to degradation of soils. In developing countries critical ecological zones could be found, among other places, along the margins of tropical rainforests, along the edges of deserts and in long-settled, densely populated regions. The interaction of demographic and environmental dynamics, which was one of the factors determining the pace of environmental degradation in those zones, was described in the report.